TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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would roll over and lay dead when he does understand the philosophy of hostage taking because he was victimized by it. Senator Bourne, you don't have to speak but do you recognize this individual? I'm returning him. This...this little critter was taken hostage from Senator Bourne, and I use it not only to return to him that which is his, it had been kidnapped, he didn't know where it was. It came into my possession, I'm giving up the hostage because I stand to gain nothing by it. back to the reality of politics, my Democratic colleagues don't understand that the leverage they had was the pressure they would bring to bear by not letting all those other bills go. The bills were being held hostage. My colleagues had gone into a bank, they took everybody there hostage. The cops said, look, let all the hostages go. And so my colleagues said, you know, that's a pretty good idea, because the cops say, when you let them go, we will talk to you. So they said, okay. let all the hostages go, and they say to people watching, what's going to happen? Are the cops going to storm the building? And the cops say, certainly not, all we have to do is starve them They've got no food. They've got no water. We are going to turn off the electricity and see how long they want to stay there in their own waste. Nothing to eat, and see how they start getting on each other's nerves and begin the finger pointing and the blame raising because they were so dumb they let go of the thing that gave them a chance to survive. every bill that was a hostage is going to be gone. The bill you all were going to talk about is going to be...it's not going to be scheduled until all those bills are gone. You all were so easily outfoxed the other side couldn't even believe it. once they saw what they were dealing with, and I talked about it yesterday before you all let that bill go, but it's you all's strategy. I am not a Democrat. You all's strategy, you all got the strategist, I'm letting you do it. They were so shocked on the other side that they said, hey, Ernie's right, we don't need to talk to them about anything. We got the votes. We're going to leave everything just like it is now. All the bills we're interested in are going to be cleared off the deck. we'll let them talk the rest of the session. And then let the Governor call a special session and let them talk all of that session, but no matter how long they talk, they will never win because they've got nothing on the table. Nothing. You all